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INFORMATION ON "LENIN" STATE METALLURGICAL PLANT
AND NONFERROUS RHODOPE MINES IN BULGARIA

SOVIETS BUILD "LENIN" STATE METALLURGICAL PLANT -- Vienna, Interreport-Ost,
No 222, 7 Feb 53

The construction of the "Lenin" State Metallurgical Plant has been undertaken by "Sovbolstroy," the joint Soviet-Bulgarian construction enterprise. This special company developed from two former German construction enterprises. The Bulgarian share of the assets of the enterprise consists only of the machinery which the Bulgarians had to buy in the Soviet Union. The company has broad privileges and is exempt from any control by the Ministry of Construction. A Soviet engineer named Shevchenko is general manager, and all important positions are held by Soviet personnel. "The 'Lenin' State Metallurgical Plant," is inscribed in gold letters, in Russian, on the large, leather-bound books lying on the office desks in the "Lenin" Plant. These books contain operating plans drawn up by Soviet experts. All the larger machines carry Soviet identification marks. The plant buildings of the steel combine are merely Soviet industrial installations in Bulgaria.

The latest reports explain why the plant will use huge amounts of electric power. Because of the raw material situation and the shortage of suitable coal, low-shaft furnaces of Swedish design for producing pig iron will be built. No blast furnaces will be built, but an electrical process will be used. The "Lenin" Plant is designed for the production of steel bars. Since it will take at least 2 or 3 years for pig iron production to get under way, the open-hearth furnaces for the present will be charged mainly with scrap. The first open-hearth furnace is to be ready for production on 30 March 1953, the second on 30 June 1953, and the rolling mill by 15 July 1953. It is planned to effect a 90 percent recovery of scrap until domestic pig iron production begins. The additional supply of the indispensable pig iron will be made available with the help of the Soviet Union. The annual production of steel bars will amount to 10,000 tons.

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The railroad carrying coal fuel from the Dimitrovo coal mines to all parts of the country will deliver, on the return trip, raw materials, scrap iron, and pig iron for the open-hearth furnaces of the "Lenin" Plant. The plant has been receiving such shipments for some time, but regular deliveries will take place only after steel production has begun. If the first electric furnace is to start producing pig iron from domestic Bulgarian ore within 2 or 3 years, iron ore deliveries must be assured. Meanwhile, there is no interruption in the ore shipments to the Satellites and to the USSR. As a result, the Bulgarian iron ore supply is limited. Until now, the iron ore mined in the vicinity of Samokov and Sofia has gone mainly to Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The "Lenin" Plant will rely mainly on the exploitation of the Samokov mines and the utilization of slag heaps found there by the sponge iron extraction process, which is not very productive. In Samokov, old smelting furnaces, surviving from the Turkish period, have again been put into operation. High-quality ore deposits will be available near Yambol, although this supply is also limited and is used to cover foreign trade commitments.

The assembly work on the auxiliary buildings of the "Lenin" Plant is to be finished by 30 July 1953. By that time, the compressor station, the repair shops, and the ore storage area will be finished. The total area of the plant is 50 hectares. It is divided into two groups of installations, the production installations and the repair and auxiliary installations. Construction completed at the end of 1952 consisted almost exclusively of the latter.

BULGARIAN STEEL TO GO TO USSR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA -- Vienna, Interreport-Ost, No 242, 22 Apr 53

According to reliable sources, the "Lenin" State Metallurgical Plant in Dimitrovo will begin the production of steel this year. In this connection, it is said that the "Vulko Chervenkov" TETs (Steam-Heat and Electric Power Station) in Dimitrograd; the "Republika" TETs is near Dimitrovo/ is to be expanded considerably, and that the critical situation in the "Rositsa" now Aleksandur Stamboliyski VETs (Hydroelectric Power Station) must be improved. The steel produced by the "Lenin" Plant will be shipped mainly to the USSR and to Czechoslovakia; only a small part is earmarked for Bulgaria.

The "Vulkan" Cement Plant will be expanded. Thus far the plant has been unable to fulfill its plan for the export of cement to the USSR.

The 1953 industrial production in Bulgaria is to be increased 16 percent as compared with 1952.

ADMINISTRATION OF ENTERPRISES IN MADAN OKOLIYA -- Khaskovo, Rodopska Borba, 14 Mar 53

The "Gyudyurska" Mine in Madan Okoliya, which is in the Rhodope lead and zinc mine region/ is headed by Gancho Nikolov. Tsvetan Gongov is the chairman of the mine trade union. This mine belongs to GORUBSO (Bulgarian-Soviet Forestry and Mining Organization) and is administered by the Second Mining Administration (rudoupravlenie).

Khaskovo, Rodopska Borba, 18 Mar 53

Sotir Stefanov is the chairman of the trade union committee in Fabrika, administered by the Second Mining Administration, Madan Okoliya.

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